

## **NAI's program in international assessments works to avoid WMD-related surprise while the U.S. seeks to prevent, reverse, and respond to weapons proliferation threats worldwide**

<b>Mission</b>	<p>The International Assessments Program provides analyses of foreign activities related to the development and deployment of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD). These analyses support national efforts to discourage the proliferation of these weapons, detect and characterize their development, and respond to their proliferation and threatened use.</p>
<b>Program Origin</b>	<p>A formal program in international assessments was established at Livermore in the mid-1960s to analyze the Soviet nuclear threat and, shortly thereafter, the Chinese threat for the U.S. intelligence community. Since then, we have expanded our efforts to include nuclear proliferation to smaller nations, rogue states, and terrorist groups as well as the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons.</p>
<b>Areas of Concern</b>	<p>We assess nuclear proliferation risks in key areas of the globe. Some potential proliferants have had antagonistic relations with the U.S. for many years, and many are located in politically unstable regions of the world. Clandestine nuclear weapons programs in Iran, Iraq, and North Korea are recent examples of nuclear proliferation attempts.</p> <p>We also analyze the status of stockpiles of nuclear weapons and weapon materials of the declared nuclear states. Of particular concern are the control and accountability of nuclear weapons, weapons materials, and weapons technology in Russia. Economic instability and the vast quantities of nuclear materials resulting from weapons dismantlement cast doubt on the ability of existing controls to adequately safeguard Russia's nuclear inventory. Our analyses provide valuable input to diplomatic efforts, formal treaties, and inspection agreements addressing these issues.</p> <p>In addition, we conduct assessments related to chemical and biological weapons. We acquire and interpret information derived from various sources as input to comprehensive studies of the characteristics of foreign facilities for the development or production of chemical and biological weapons. Our efforts in this area are closely coordinated with the U.S. intelligence community.</p>

## Recent Accomplishments

- Assessment of capabilities and objectives of Russia and China for maintaining their nuclear weapons stockpiles without nuclear testing.
- Provision of support to an interagency assessment of the safeguards and security of fissile materials in the republics of the former Soviet Union.
- Analysis of Russian military R&D and implications for future strategic forces.
- Characterization of key Russian R&D institutes and design laboratories.
- Analysis of possible nuclear test preparations in South Asia.
- Analysis of Iran's nuclear program.
- Assistance to the Department of Energy on a number of high-visibility export control and nuclear supplier issues.

### Benefits to the Nation

A complex web of interrelated technical and political issues drive potential WMD proliferants. Our International Assessments Program combines Livermore expertise in nuclear, chemical, and biological science with political and economic evaluations to monitor and assess foreign weapons programs. Our efforts are not performed in isolation. Rather, we contribute to larger interagency efforts, performing those unique tasks that are best suited to a national laboratory, particularly those involving significant technical components. Our experience and technical knowledge, acquired over decades of assessments of foreign nuclear programs, provides a valuable complement to the dynamics of rapidly changing conditions of policy focus within the U.S. government.

### Contact

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